

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) A method of producing a magnetic disk, comprising:  
forming at least a magnetic layer on a disk substrate, and  
thereafter forming a carbon-based protection layer by plasma CVD using a mixed gas of a hydrocarbon-based gas and a nitrogen gas without containing an inactive gas under the condition that the disk substrate with the magnetic layer formed thereon is kept at a temperature higher than 200°C,  
wherein the mixed gas contains no hydrogen gas.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
the mixed gas is a mixture of a low-molecular-weight straight-chain hydrocarbon-based gas and a nitrogen gas.
3. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
exposing the carbon-based protection layer to nitrogen plasma after forming the carbon-based protection layer.
4. (original) A method according to claim 3, further comprising:  
forming a lubrication layer after exposing the carbon-based protection layer to nitrogen plasma.
5. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein  
the magnetic disk is for use in a magnetic disk apparatus of a load/unload system.